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Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00
SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 DODE-00 EA-10 H-01 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSC-05 OIC-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-09 /162 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DADAMSON:DEF/VF
APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
EUR:JGOODBY
IO/UNP:PSBRIDGES
ACDA/MA/IR:CFLOWERREE
PM/DCA:MARIETTI
----------046088 152033Z /70
R 151656Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: BELGIAN CANDIDACY FOR COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT;
NATO CONSULTATIONS ON NEW CD MEMBERS

REF: USNATO 6700

1. BELGIAN EMBASSY MINISTER DE LA BARRE CALLED ON IO
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HELMAN JULY 12 TO SEEK REACTION
TO BELGIAN DIPLOMATIC NOTE (RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT JULY 10)
EXPRESSING BELGIAN INTEREST IN BECOMING MEMBER OF NEW
COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT. HE SAID BELGIUM HAD ALREADY MADE
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DEMARCHES IN LONDON, PARIS AND THE HAGUE, AND THAT THESE
CAPITALS RESPONDED "FAVORABLY." DE LA BARRE DID NOT KNOW
WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO MADE A DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW.

2. NOTING THAT AT PRESENT THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AMONG
INTERESTED STATES AS TO THE MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH NEW
CD MEMBERS WOULD BE SELECTED, HELMAN REPLIED USG IS STILL

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CONSIDERING HOW TO PROCEED. HELMAN NOTED THAT TO DATE 3 OTHER NATO MEMBERS (NORWAY, DENMARK, TURKEY) AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER FRIENDLY STATES HAVE PRESENTED THEIR CANDIDACIES, AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR US TO CHOOSE AMONG NATO MEMBERS. DE LA BARRE AGREED, AND INQUIRED WHETHER US WOULD FAVOR NATO CONSULTATIONS ON CD

MEMBERSHIP. HELMAN NOTED THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF THIS IN NAC(REFTEL) AND SAID US TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTS NATO CONSULTATIONS. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD LEAD TO A DECISION WITHIN NATO AS TO WHOSE CANDIDACY SHOULD BE FAVORED. DE LA BARRE CONCEDED THIS MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT NONETHELESS THOUGHT CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.

3. FOR USNATO: AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, WHILE WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT EFFICACY OF NATO CONSULTATIONS ON NEW CD MEMBERS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO TRY TO BLOCK SUCH CONSULTATIONS. OUR OWN THINKING ON NEW CD MEMBERS, HOWEVER, IS STILL IN A PRELIMINARY STAGE. ACCORDINGLY, SHOULD SUBJECT OF NATO CONSULTATIONS ON CD MEMBERSHIP BE RAISED AGAIN AND A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS DEVELOP, YOU MAY INDICATE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT THEY BE DEFERRED UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH NEW MEMBERS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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SELECTED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, MEMBERSHIP, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE179515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DADAMSON:DEF/VF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780291-0463
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780755/aaaabuoo.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd068072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 6700
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1994214
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN CANDIDACY FOR COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT; NATO CONSULTATIONS ON NEW CD MEMBERS
TAGS: PARM, BE
To: USNATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd068072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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